

Michigan Reads! 2008



Raccoons!

Read

- *Albert's raccoon*, by Karen Wallace and Graham Percy, Kingfisher, 2004.
- *A Friend for all seasons*, by Julia Hubery, illustrated by Mei Matsuoka, Atheneum Books, 2006.
- *The great Corgiville kidnapping*, by Tasha Tudor, Little Brown, 1997.
- *How raccoon got his coat*, Native American Folktale:
<http://www.geocities.com/crawdadcreekrehab/RaccoonCoat.html>
- *Hunter's best friend at school*, by Laura Malone Elliott, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger, HarperCollins, 2002.
- *Kisses*, by Nanda Roep and Marijke ten Cate, Hand Print, 1998.
- *A Kiss goodbye*, by Audrey Penn, illustrated by Barbara Leonard Gibson, Tanglewood Press, 2007.
- *The Kissing hand*, by Audrey Penn, illustrated by Ruth E. Harper & Nancy M. Leak, Child & Family Press, 1993.
- *Little raccoon and the outside world*, by Lilian Moore, McGraw-Hill, 1965.
- *Now what can I do?*, by Margaret Park Bridges, illustrated by Melissa Sweet, Seastar Books, 2004.
- *Our library*, by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Maggie Smith, Clarion Books, 2008.
- *A Pocket full of kisses*, by Audrey Penn, illustrated by Barbara Leonard Gibson, Tanglewood Press, 2006.
- *Raccoons*, by K. M. Kostyal, National Geographic Society, 1993.
- *Raccoon and ripe corn*, by Jim Arnosky, HarperTrophy, 1991.
- *Raccoons for kids: ringed tails and wild ideas*, by Jeff Fair and Alan Carey, Photographs by Sandy Carey, Northword Press, 1994.
- *Raccoon moon*, by Nancy Carol Willis, Birdsong Books, 2002.
- *Raccoon on his own*, by Jim Arnosky, Puffin, 2003.
- *Raccoon tune*, by Nancy Shaw, illustrated by Howard Fine, Henry Holt, 2003.
- *The Real winner*, by Charise Neugebauer, illustrated by Barbara Nascimbeni, North-South/ Night Sky Books, 2000.
- *Ruby bakes a cake*, by Susan Hill, illustrated by Margie Moore, HarperTrophy, 2005.
- *Ruby paints a picture*, by Susan Hill, illustrated by Margie Moore, HarperCollins, 2005.
- *The Searcher and old tree*, by David McPhail, Charlesbridge Publishing, 2007.

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- *Stay awake, Sally*, by Mitra Modarressi, Putnam, 2007.
- *Timothy goes to school*, by Rosemary Wells, Dial Press, 1981.
- *Wait till the moon is full*, by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Garth Williams, HarperTrophy, 1989.

Crafts (all crafts best for ages 2-5)

- Raccoon in Tree puppet: www.tltree.com/c4_activity.htm
- Raccoon paper bag puppet: www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/puppets/paperbag/
- Raccoon from hearts templates (can be used for stick puppets): www.first-school.ws/activities/shapes/animals/raccoon-hearts.htm
- Raccoon Masks:
 - Michigan Reads! Glasses: www.misterandersons.com/puppettales/michiganreadsglasses.pdf
 - www.humanewildlifecontrol.com/pdf/kids_mask.pdf
 - <http://childcareandbeyond.tripod.com/mask-raccoon.html>
 - www.warnershedd.com/pages/raccoon1.htm and
 - www.warnershedd.com/pages/raccoon2.htm
- Raccoon Tail: <http://familyfun.go.com/printables/games/printable/pinhtail-raccoon/>

Use just the tail cut-outs and tie string through the top of the tail and around the children's waists!

Sing-a-longs

- **I'm a Little Raccoon**, to the tune: "I'm a Little Teapot," Ages 0-5
(Source: DLTK's Crafts for Kids)

I'm a little raccoon, prowling around,
(use your hands like little paws and make a cautious prowling motion.)

I hunt for food without a sound.
(look left and then right and then make a shhhhhh motion -- with your finger to your lips)

A mask on my face and a bushy tail,

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(point to your eyes and then swish one arm behind you like a tail)

Let's see if you can spot my trail!

(point at someone and then put hand on forehead (like a salute) and gaze at the floor like

you're looking for pawprints)

- **Raccoon Sitting in a Tree**, to the tune: “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” **Ages 0-5**
(Source: www.misterandersons.com)

Raccoon, raccoon, climbing a tree,
Wearing a mask, you can't fool me.
Hiding there so I can't see
What you're doing in that tree.
Raccoon, raccoon, climbing a tree,
Wearing a mask, you can't fool me.

- **All Around the Garbage Can**, to the tune: “Pop Goes the Weasel!” **Ages 0-5**
(Source: Phyllis Thode, Julie Moore, text from “Raccoon Tune”)

All around the garbage can
The raccoons tip it over
They want some yummy food to eat
Pop! Goes the trashcan.

This lid is on a little tight.
We'll have to put up quite a fight.
We pull and pull with all our might.
Pop! Goes the trashcan.

What's inside for us to eat?
We really want some tasty treats!
Banana peels and bright red beets.
Pop! Goes the trashcan.

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- **Raccoon**, to the tune: “Kookaburra,” **Ages 0-5**
(Source: www.misterandersons.com)

Raccoon sleeps in a hollow tree,
While the sun shines on you and me.
Sleep, raccoon, sleep, raccoon, warm and cozily.

In the darkest part of night,
Raccoon has the best eyesight.
Look, raccoon, look, raccoon, My, your eyes are bright.

Raccoon hardly makes a sound
When he prowls all around.
Hunt, raccoon, hunt, raccoon, find food on the ground.

- **Play Along with “Raccoon Tune”! Ages 0-8**
 - Choose instruments (bells, sticks, trash can lids and sticks if you are brave!)
 - Have children make a rhythm with the text while you read
 - Ages 0-2: give babies bells or drums—items that will make sounds easily
 - Ages 2-4: Let kids make sounds—encourage them to keep your beat by clapping, or hitting your own drum as you read
 - Ages 5 and up: Give the kids more complex rhythms. Encourage them to work together to make a tune.
- **Make your own raccoon tune! Ages 0-8**
 - Choose a popular melody and create a rhyme
 - Ages 2-4: have kids suggest rhyming words or go free-form and make a poem about raccoons
 - Ages 5 and up: Encourage the kids to do their own writing, maybe in small groups. They can perform their tunes for the rest of the group.

Activities

- **Five Little Raccoons Finger Play, Ages 0-5**

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(Source: Nature Boxes for Early Childhood Educators)

You can make some puppets (see craft section above) and then use the puppets to act out this rhyme.

One little raccoon looking for things to do,
Along came another and then there were two.
Two curious raccoons trying so hard to see,
Along came another and then there were three.
Three clever raccoons trying to open the door,
Along came another and then there were four.
Four happy raccoons glad to be alive,
Along came another and then there were five.
Five little raccoons as tired as can be,
Looked up for a place to rest and scurried up the tree.

- **Raccoon, Raccoon Finger Play, Ages 0-5**

(Source: Pam Miller at www.teachers.net)

Raccoon, raccoon, (*fingers around eyes like a mask*)
Up in a tree, (*hands raised high*)
Raccoon, raccoon, (*fingers around eyes like a mask*)
You can't see me! (*cover eyes*)
Raccoon, raccoon, (*fingers around eyes like a mask*)
I can see you, (*one hand on eyes, one pointing*)
Eating fish and corn, (*pretend to eat*)
And birds' eggs too. (*pretend to eat*)
Raccoon, raccoon, (*fingers around eyes like a mask*)
Hunting at night, (*hands shade eyes and squint*)
Raccoon, raccoon, (*fingers around eyes like a mask*)
Sleeps in daylight. (*sleeping motion*)

- **Trashcan Treasure Hunt, Ages 2-8**

- Set out trashcans around the library and fill them with an assortment of "food" (either paper cut-outs or plastic food)

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- Have children dress as raccoons (see masks/ tails in crafts section)
- Little “raccoons” have to try to find healthy “meals” from the trash!
- Ages 2-4: Keep the theme on healthy vs. not healthy treats for people
- Ages 5 and older: you can first learn about what raccoons eat both in the wild and closer to people. Have them search for food that raccoons would/ should eat.
- **Pin the Tail on the Raccoon, Ages 3-8**
 - <http://familyfun.go.com/printables/games/printable/pinthetail-raccoon/>
- **Rhyming Lists, Ages 3-8**
 - Pick key words from “Raccoon Tune” and create rhyming lists
 - See how many you can come up with!
 - Ages 3-4: More adult-led—encourage kids to come up with rhymes too
 - Ages 5 and up: Kids can do this on their own, maybe in groups
- **“Raccoon Tune” the Broadway Play, Ages 2-8**
 - Have children dress in one of the masks/ tails from the “Raccoons!” craft section first
 - Some children can be other characters too (girl sleeping, frogs, fish)
 - Have children act out the scenes as you read the text (you may want to suggest some simple movements that go with parts of the text and lead children through it)
 - Ages 2-4: Keep movements simple and/ or choose a subset of the book to perform
 - Ages 5 and up: Have children make props and think of ways to act out the book
- **Animal Tracks, Ages 2-8**
 - Set up animal tracks around the library ending with the animal the tracks belong to (either a stuffed animal or printed picture)
 - Have children learn the different animal tracks, split up into animal teams (for example, bears, rabbits, or raccoons) and track that animal through the library

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- Information about tracking animals:
www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/nature/track.htm
- Animal footprints identification game:
www.leslietryon.com/animals1101/animalfootprints.html
- Nice resource for raccoon facts:
www.kidsturncentral.com/links/raccoonlinks.htm
- Ages 2-3: adults help children, set out only one or two types of tracks for all children to follow
- Ages 4 and up: Expand the number and type of tracks, incorporate tracking information, children can split into groups and lead

Print-outs and Decorations

- **Raccoon fact sheets:**
 - Humane Society 4-page pamphlet: www.hsus.org/web-files/PDF/raccoon-fact-sheet.pdf
 - <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/PUBL/wlnotebook/FSRaccoon.htm>
- **Raccoon reading a book:**
<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/clipart/clip/raccoon.html>
- **Raccoon in hollow tree:**
www.si.umich.edu/chico/RainbowCrow/coloring/raccoon.gif
- **Raccoon walking:** www.si.umich.edu/chico/RainbowCrow/coloring/raccoon2.gif
- **Great photographs of raccoons and some clip art:** <http://fohn.net/raccoon-pictures-facts/raccoon-pictures.html>
- **Raccoons in various activities and an activity sheet (two pages great for coloring!):** www.humanewildlifecontrol.com/pdf/kids_raccoons.pdf
- **Collection of nine raccoon coloring pages:** www.first-school.ws/theme/animals/cp_wild/raccoon-coloring-page.htm